## AFFAIRS OF THE RAILWAYS.

Personal, Local and General Notes. W. J. McKee, an old-time Big Four man, has been appointed master of transporta-tion of the Central railway of Georgia. Isaac Davis, chief rate clerk of the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City road, spent Christmas with his mother in this city.

The Lake Erie & Western now takes out of the oil territory of Ohio more oil than any other line, the average shipments at the present time being forty tank cars per

The Great Northern (Manitoba lines) will on the 1st of January abolish their district passenger agencies at St. Louis, Cincinnati and Harrisburg, Pa., as an economical

The weather last night was of such a winterish character that the superintend-ents of several of the roads ordered the night track walkers put on for the first

Hereafter it is stated that General Traf-fic Manager Murray, of the Big Four and the Chesapeake & Ohio roads, will spend more of his time in New York City, that point really to be his headquarters.

The year 1889 seems to have been an un-fortunate one for car-works, six having passed into the hands of receivers since March 1. In most cases this action was the result of taking cars to build at figures below cost.

J. G. and M. C. Blaine, formerly of this city, are now operating, as trustees, a carworks at Green Cove Spring, Fla. President Duval, of the Florida Central & Peninsular road, last week placed a contract with them to build 250 cars.

Report has it that the deal by which the Lake Erie & Western people secure control of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw road is about closed. The Lake Erie & Western now owns and operates 722 miles of road, and the acquisition of the C., J. & M. would increase its mileage to 1,066

In speaking of the heavy holiday travel, W. H. Palmerton, train master of the Peoria division of the Big Four, an old passenger conductor, says that it was the heaviest on that line he ever knew it to be. Wednesday afternoon train No. 18 handled 518 passengers between Peoria and Indian-On Jan. 1 there is to be a reorganization of the freight department of the Big Four,

which will result in the transfer of some of the assistant general freight age what transfers will be made will be decided to-day at a conference between General Traffic manager Murray and Freight Traffic Manager Washburn. The Gazette, published in Terre Haute in the interests of the Brotherhood of Loco-

motive Firemen, is spoken of as being the most ably edited and profitable enterprise of this character in the list of magazines of the laboring classes, and its circulation is said to be much larger than any other railroad paper or magazine. Vice-president and General Manager

Clark, of the Union Pacific, tells a reporter of the Kansas City Journal that the passenger department of the road will probably not be disturbed unless it be in the matter of cutting down expenses in the way of outside offices, of which he thinks there are more than necessary.

The committee of the Western Passenger Association on the sale of unlimited tickets has declared against the tickets, and recmmends that none shall be issued after March 1. Stop-over checks on local or through tickets are to be taken off, and it is thought that with these two avenues closed the greatest causes for demoralization of rates through scalpers will have been done away with.

F. C. Donald, of the passenger department of the Central Traffic Association has called a meeting of the compilers and rate clerks in Chicago, Jan. 6. In his circular he says it is of the utmost importance that every road in the association be represented, in order that the work may be attended to promptly. In order to have the rates take effect Feb. 1 it will be necessary to have the sheets ready to mail to the commission at Washington from Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis not later than the 17th of January; therefore it will be impossible to send proofs to any line, and all the rates will have to be figured and handed in at the meeting.

Railroad clerks' associations are begin-ning to multiply, Toledo and Cleveland both bave large organizations. One thing which has deterred the growth of the organization is an impression which had got out that the associations were antagonistic to the railway companies. That such is not the case is evident from what the objects of the association are, as set forth in the by-laws and constitution, the object being to promote the welfare of railroad clerks in all practicable ways; by assisting them to obtain employment; by encouraging them to qualify themselves for promotion by thought and discussion on pracucal questions, fidelity to the interests of their employers, and integrity in all their business relations; by extending their acquaintance beyond local limits; to assist the deserving needy and to participate in the burial of deceased members; to provide an attractive resort where its members may spend their leisure hours. An effort is to made in this city to organize such an asso-

A limited vestibule live-stock train is the latest idea in live-stock transportation. A company with large capital has been organized to build and operate the lines after the same manner which the Pullman company operates over roads. The first distinctive feature of the cars is that they are made wholly of iron and steel. The only wood in them is a few narrow slots on the sides. The roof is arched like a passenger coach, and under the arched roof, running the whole length of the train of thirty cars, is a haymow carrying hay enough for the ninety-hour trip from Montana to Philadelphia. Running through the center of the car and suspended from the roof is a passage through which a man can go from one end of the trainito the other while it is underfull speed. By that means the hay-racks in front of the cattle can be kept full all the time and the cattle carefully watched without the necessity of any halt. In front of each animal is a steel watering-trough holding ten gallons. That turns up against the side of the car when not in use. A steel tank at the end of the car is filled with water every eight hours at the railway pumping-stations. The whole train-load can be watered by two men in thirty min-

#### IS IT "NERVOUS SYMPATHY?" Why Is One Crime Usually Followed by a Number of Similar Ones?

One day last week there appeared in the Advertiser no fewer than four accounts of missing men who recently disappeared from their homes. One of these was that of Prof. T. W. Bancroft, of Brown University. Two others were of Boston men, and the other was the case of a young Lynn machinist, who is supposed to be dead. In none of the cases cited does there appear to have been any known reason for the disappearance. The men were not absconders or fugitives from justice. In some of the cases it is feared that the men were foully murdered; in others, it is feared that they

may have died by their own hands.

It is stated by experts who have spent their lives in the study of abnormal mental action that a noted disappearance, murder or suicide is extremely apt to be followed by other cases quite similar in detail. There seems to be some inexplicable sympathy among patients who are mentally unstrung. so that the exhibition of any curious symp tom by one patient is unwittingly mimicked by the others. Weil known examples of this trait are to be found in the unreasoning panie which is so contagious in any crowded place on a cry of fire, or the rapid ity with which hysteria spreads in a shop or school-room, or even the contagious ef fects of laughter, tears or yawns. Some curious element of nervous sympathy is doubtless responsible for these phenomena. and is, perhaps, the cause of epidemics of suicide, crime or disappearances, especially in such cases as are unusually receptive of such influences through a mental unsound-

It is not unreasonable to suppose, then as a result of a "mysterious disappearance" which was widely published less than a month since, the case of a man wearled overwork or mental strain, who might be prompted to leave home and family by some irrational desire to imitate the case mentioned. The peculiar sympathy might not be apparent to the man himself, but its effects would prompt him to act in a manner quite similar to the ease mentioned. For the time being he is a monomaniac urged on by an irresistible desire to leave behind him everything which has been a part of his life and to seek in solitude or a new life a rest from all the cares and worries which have been his burden. Nor is this entirely an irrational idea. The change of scene in itself might

ness or nervous weakness.

be recommended by his family physician; but it is in the manner of the execution of his idea that the mental unsoundness of the missing man becomes apparent. Without a word of warning, suddenly and mysteriously he leaves his home and goes no one knows whither. Sometimes he returns after a time, half unconscious of the story of his wanderings. Oftener he is discovered at some distance half crazed and delirious. In some cases he is found dead from exhaustion, privation and exposure, or is fished from the water in which he ended his life.

AN ARTIST'S QUEER FREAK.

Son of Meunier, the Famous Belgian Sculptor, Ships as a Common Sailor. San Francisco Chronicle. "Heave ho!"

"Aye, aye, sir," came the cheery re-The first speaker was a burly stevedore standing outside the big British ship Crown of India. He was replied to by a lad begrimed with dust and dirt, who was deep down in the hold of the ship fastening cargo to tackles to be hoisted ashore. He spoke sailor English with a droll mixture of French and cockney, and if his regular features and refined face settled the matter he seemed considerable out of his element. he seemed considerable out of his element.
"There's a boy with a history," said the ship's first mate, addressing a Chronicle

representative. "What is his position here?" was asked. "He is an ordinary ship's apprentice." When the apprentice came to the surface at the noon hour he introduced himself as

at the noon hour he introduced himself as George Meunier, a son of the world-renowned sculptor, Constantin Meunier. Under pressure he consented to give a history of himself and his famous parent.

"The circumstances," he began, "which ended in resolving me into a ship's apprentice would make a long story. I was born in Brussels twenty years ago and am one of two brothers. My father attended to my education until I was fourteen years old. At that age he took me in hand and tried to make an ratist of me. I made fair enough success, but tired of palette and brush. There is great enthuiasm among native Belgians over the military service, and despite my father's objections I entered the army as a cadet after passing a successful examination. I rose in the service rapidly and finally attained rank as sergeant.

"When the time came for me to pass examination for promotion to a lieutenancy I

amination for promotion to a lieutenancy I failed. The failure was due to my poor knowledge of the Flemish language. I was nagrined at the result and felt my disappointment keenly. Without saying a word to my friends I took a leap from my social station and went to Antwerp, where the Crown of India was loading for San Francisco. I was accepted as a ship's apprentice, and have been on the ship ever since. I am improving my time abroad by studying to pass a naval examination for entrance to the Belgian army. Until recently the navy of Belgium consisted of one undersized ship. Lately the government has ordered the construction of six new cruisers, and I hope one day to be a captain of one of them. I was not born an artist, and feel that I must redeem myself in the eyes of my father in some way.' George related an interesting history of

his father, whose illustrious name is a byword in art circles the world over. "He has told me," said George, "that he painted when a mere child. He is what you might call a painter of the people; that is to say, he takes most of his subjects from the common classes. His first great success was a painting entitled "Funeral of a Priest," which took the gold medal at the Vatican exposition thirty-four years ago. It was a picture of life in a Belgian monastery, and represented four monks carrying tery, and represented four monks carrying a litter, on which was the dead body of one of the priests, to the monastry vaults. My father was twenty-five years old at the time and won his first laurels over a dozen great artists. The picture was purchased by King Leopold I, who decorated my father with the cross of the highest order in Belgium. My father has gained first prize gold medals at art expositions in Rotterdam, Dublin, Buenos Ayres, London, Rome, Cologne, Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris. In all he has over fifty gold medals.

"I was a witness of his work on a piece

of statuary which created a furor in European art circles last year and was awarded the first prize gold medal at the late Paris exposition. It is a relic of a terrible catastrophe which happened in Antwerp a year ago. The government powder-works exploded, and overthree hundred men, women and children were killed. Heaps of the dead and dying were carted away to a building near by. In the dead of night my father, who is full of romanticism, went with me to view the horrible sight. As we made our way through the heaps of the dead my father observed a haggard-faced mother, her long hair streaming behind her, looking with tear-blinded eyes among the dead. She was searching for an only son. My father drew back and watched her. She lifted up a bleeding body, and all at once she started back with outstretched arms, with the cry, 'My son!' on her lips. The rush-light she held in her hand shed an unearthly glare on her suffering face. My father caught the expression and started home with tears in his eyes. With many a sob and many a cut of his chisel he perpetuated this terrible vision in marble. The French government decorated him with the Cross of the Legion of Honor. The Belgian government purchased the statue." George Meunier was at one time a lead-ing artist on the London Graphic. He bears up with his strange lot as an apprentice with great composure, and when the reporter left him he sat down contentedly to small tin of odorous stew, which he ate

#### with a relish. UNKNOWN SIBERIA.

Possibilities of Baron Nordenskjold's Route Between Northern Russia and Europe.

Last July two ships and a tug left London to test the possibility of Baron Nordenskjold's plan for establishing a permanent commercial route between western Siberia and Europe through the Kara sea and up the great rivers that flow into the Arctic ocean from Siberia and China. The voyage was successful, the two ships and tug penetrating to Karaoul, 160 miles up the Yemssei, and returing to London in eighty-four days. The feasibility of the enterprise can as yet scarcely be said to be demonstrated, but the immense mineral and agricultural possibilities of Siberia will no doubt lead to every effort toward their development at no distant day. Baron Nordenskjold enthusiastically affirms that the opening up of this great undertaking will be "an event rivaling in importance the return to Portugal of the first fleet loaded with merchandise from India." His statements in regard to Siberia will sound strange to most Americans and Europeans, who are accustomed to look upon Siberia as an aggregation of frozen steppes and desolate mountains, inhabited chiefly by bears, and wolves, and exiled Russians and their keepers. In a letter to one of the promoters of his scheme he says: "Siberia surpasses the North American continent as to the extent of cultivable soil. The Siberian forests are the largest in the world. Its mineral resources are immense; its climate, excepting the Tundra and the northernmost forest region, healthy and as favorable for the culture of cereals as any part of Europe. Everything seems to insure this yet so lit-tle known land an avenir comparable to the stupenduous development which we at present witness in the new world."

Baron Nordenskjold may be correct in his statements, and certainly he is entitled to speak on the subject, but all means of in-formation accessible to most people do not present Siberia in such an astractive light. Its climate is indisputably colder than that of Europe in the same latitude, and the fact that Siberia, though one million square miles larger than Europe, has a population of only three or four millions of people, indicates that the natives are scarcely aware of its many advantages. The fact, also, that Russia and China dominate this great territory is not very favorable to the development of such possibilities as it undoubtedly offers.

A Profitable Party. Philadelphia Press. "I recently was told of a novel birthday party," remarked Stephen Mumford, of New York, a day or two ago. The party was given in honor of the new-born son of New York's richest Chinaman, Sinn Quong On, and the feast was held for seven days at an estimated expense of \$3,200. This may seem costly, but listen to the saving clause. Chinese etiquette demands that at the end of each day the baby be brought into the banquet hall, and that each guest present him with a purse containing \$10 in gold. It is expected that after the feast is paid for there will remain several thousands which will be used to start a bank account for will be used to start a bank account for Sinn Quong On, jr."

SURE to relieve. There is no failure in Sim-

THE FUTURE OF ALASKA. Development of the Country Likely to Re sult in a Big Railway Project.

Comparatively little is known of Alaska. Some daring adventurers have pursued the course of some of the leading streams of the territory, but there is no exact knowledge concerning the topography of its interior, of its geological or mineralogical character. There is a proposition now pending before Congress to build a central station in Alaska. This station is to be used as the headquarters of scientists to be sent out by the government to examine into the real character of the country. It is said by army officers who have been in Alaska that its riches are great, and that their development is only just begun. It is so far away and the communication is so poor that the public hears little of what is being done there. In the southern strip of the Territory, below Mount St. Elias, there are to-day some of the largest quartz-mills T. C. Crawford, in New York Tribune.

are to-day some of the largest quartz-mills In the mines unexpected riches are being developed. This little strip alone last year exported products to the value of more than \$9,000,000. It is common to associate Alaska with the Artic regions, but people forget that the greater portion of it is in the same latitude as England, and that the Japanese current tempers its climate as the gulf stream does the atmosphere of England. The average temperature during the winter is not below 32.

Explorers who have been up and down some of the swift streams report evidences.

Explorers who have been up and down some of the swift streams report evidences of a tropical vegetation. At any rate, it is certain that in the central portion of the Territory there is an enormous stretch which can be used for agriculture. It is as good land and as favorably situated as that of the great wheat belt of Russia. It is also in the same line as some of the best agricultural portions of Sweden and Norway. But it is not from an agricultural point of view alone that this expedition is being prepared. It is believed that Alaska, from surface indications, contains inexhaustible wealth in the shape of gold, silver, copper and iron. The silver mines now being worked in the southern strip are rich and profitable. From the peculiar formation of the mountain ranges, experts who have already visited the country say that the indications point to the most valuable of discoveries. The fur trade of the interior is also undeveloped. More than this, the interior streams are More than this, the interior streams are alive with fish. Indeed, one of the returning explorers relates a fish story which is quite the equal of anything I have ever heard. He says that in some of the streams fish are so thick that in coming down in the shallows they fill the water to such an extent as to crowd out fish on the banks. It is said in behalf of this expedition that it will cost no more than \$100,000, and that the government cannot afford to neglect any longer a careful examination and study of the possibilities of riches to be found in this country. The Secretary of War has earnestly recommended that this expedition be approved by Congress, and it is probable that it will be so approved unless it is lost in the hurry of the short

The development of this territory will undoubtedly lead to a reviving of the eoject of the great transcontinental railroad, which will enable people to go to Europe without crossing the ocean. So long as the country between Washington Territory and Behring strait showed nothing but forest and deserts of ice no com-bination of capital could have been found great enough to be enlisted in an enterprise which could not by any possibility have paid, in passing through an undeveloped country; but if it can be shown that Alaska is a country rich in minerals, that fact alone will cause the building of a railroad to Alaska from Washington. The western coast of British America has also developed rich mineral regions. I am told by railroad experts that there is nothing which is so sure to enlist rail-road enterprise as rich mineral developments. If, then, Alaska itself develops enough to draw to it a railroad from the Northwest, then the rest of the project would be comparatively easy. Russia is now building a transcontinetal Siberian railroad, and within ten years will have the road completed to the extreme eastern limit. Ten years will mean a good deal in the history of Alaska, as many vigorousminded explorers are turning their attention to the fascinating subject of Alaska and its possibilities. Behring strait, in its narrowest portion, is not over twenty-five miles wide. It is only a trifle more than the English channel between Calais and Dover. Its waters are more tranquil on an average than the famous strip of water be-tween England and France. It would be open for at least six months in the year. During the winter, when it is closed by ice, undoubtedly science would discover some way to affect the transportation over it. At any rate, the project which a few years ago looked like the wildest of improbable things, is now approaching the region of

possible ones. NOVEL PARK IDEA.

Colonel Crisp Wants the Cherokee Strip Converted Into a National Breathing Place.

Kansas City Times. Col. John T. Crisp has an idea that if the government purchased the Cherokee Strip from the Indians and made a national park of it the people of the Nation would com-

"Why, think of it," said he to a reporter esterday, "at the rate we are now going and have gone for years it will not be long until the American people have nothing of the great and bountiful gifts of nature to remind them of the country when it was one vast garden or park, the rival of which the world never contained. True, the Yellowstone Park is a beautiful spot, but what does it amount to in such a vast country. It is not accessible to the poor—it is a rich man's resort. It is not what God meant it might be. The pure water and the free air of that region are a health-giving boon to mankind, but how many of us are fortunate enough to enjoy them? It costs money to go to the Yellowstone, a great deal of money, and one must have a bank to remain there, therefore of what use is that magnificent ornament to the common peo-

ple of this country? "If we had national parks in various sections of the country and they were game reserves, our grandchildren's children might know for themselves what God had done for this the most blessed of all countries. How is it now? There is not a bird or beast that lives in the great American domain but is being destroyed by ruthless hunters, who, it seems to me, never think of the morrow or the next year; and even the fishes of our rivers and lakes are annually succumbing to the sportsmen who do not act as though men just as good and ust as sportive were to follow in this life after the history of their earthly career has been lost among the years and forever for-

"I tell you it makes me feel bad and I am not good humored when I think how much we might do for the future of our country and how much we are doing against it. The government don't need the Cherekee Strip, the Indians don't need it, no more do the settlers. They say they do, but they there not hundreds thousands of acres of land Missouri, as good as any land in world, that homeseekers can get if they want it? Uncle Sam has plenty of land right here at our doors. He says we can have it if we really want homes, and all he asks of us to show that we mean business is that we make our homes on his farms and they are ours. When homesteaders can get lands like these, why do they want to go to the Cherokee Strip and No-Man's-Land looking for fortunes? They don't. Only boomers and adventurers keep up the cry of "more land," and after they have gone beyond the limits of civilization and settled they begin to complain of the seasons, the railroads and everything else. Because they are in hard luck they blame everything and everybody but themselves, forgetting they tried an experiment and got the worst of it. I say homeseekers don't need that great area of vacant land known as the Cherokee outlet, and let's make a magnificent park and game preserve of it. I make this proposition to Uncle Sam in good faith, and I don't expect him to sneer at me on any account. Having such a park, who in this country would not want to visit it? Think of it. Cherokee Park, containing more than six million acres, stocked with Buffalo, deer, wont to make that their home. And what a fishing ground the sparkling and dashing Chaskaska would make! I would have no mockery in it, either. Leave things as God and nature made them. The only improve-ments I would make would be driveways for the people and resting-places for those who wanted to sit down. When that was done the man who journeyed from Texas to the metropolis of the Southwest would tarry a day or so in the most delightful re-treat in the great West, and it would make him cheerful and happy. He would know that life was worth living, and like him would be millions. Now is the time to do

such things. By and by land will be too valuable for the establishment of such life-saving stations, but the time will never come when we or our posterity could part with them, no matter at what price, once they existed."

AN ADMISSION OF GUILT. A Southern Paper Unconsciously Advances a Reason for the Passage of the Elections Bill.

The only arguments worthy of any notice that the Democrats have brought against the federal elections bill are that it is not needed, as elections are fairly conducted now, and that, even if it is needed, it will be of no use, as it cannot be enforced. The Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier seems to think otherwise, however. In its issue for last Monday it said:

We would suggest, even if the force bill be passed, the electoral vote of South Carolina can be preserved to the Democratic party by a simple amendment of the election law, and that Governor Tillman cannot do a wiser thing than to send a message to the General Assembly recommending that the polling-place for presidential electors be separated from the congressional polling-place, and that a ballot-box be provided for presidential electors at the polling-place for State and county officers. It is entirely within the power of the General Assembly to so amend the election law as to remove the danger of sacrificing the electoral vote of South Carolina in 1892.

The only interpretation that can be put upon this language is that a federal election law is needed and that it can be enforced. If it cannot be enforced, and if elections can be conducted fairly, what is the need of separating the congressional ballot-boxes from the electoral ballotboxes? It can only mean that South Carolina proposes to continue, as far as possible, its present method of conducting elections, and that it dare not put these methods to the test of an examination. The demand of the News and Courier that there shall be separate polling places for Congressmen and electors is a frank admission, then, that elections are not honestly conducted now and that federal supervision can be

now and that federal supervision can be made so effective as to show it.

It is probably true, as the News and Courier says, that if the plan it recommends is followed "the electoral vote of South Carolina can be preserved to the Democratic party." The control of the choice of presidential electors is expressly given to the State by the Constitution, and if the method of choosing these officials followed for some years in the South is continued, probably "the dauger of sacrificing the electoral vote of South Carolina in 1892" will be removed. This confession that the real motive of the Democrats in opposing the passage of the federal elections bill is because it can be enforced and will aid in obtaining an honest vote should remove any remaining doubt as to the need of such a law. But in what a predicament the admission of the News and Courier leaves its doughfaced Northern allies

FRA DIAVOLO AND TURPIN OUTDONE. The Exploits of a Russian Bandit Who Has Just Been Sent to Siberia.

At Loustsk, in Poland, the Criminal Court was engaged the week before last with one of the most extraordinary trials on record, and one that has been fully reported in the French and Russian journals. The accused was a Russian nobleman named Kroukowski, whose exploits as a brigand put Fra Diavolo and all his brothers in the shade. And the interesting thing about all his criminal and romantic career is that there is no room for fiction in the story, because it has been established by evidence corroborated and sworn to in court.

For years past this man Kroukowski was in the habit of carrying on a nocturnal warfare upon the rich nobles of Volhynia. Being the son of rich parents who lived in the Podolsk government, he received an ex-cellent education and spoke French like a Parisian. He spent a great deal of his time in Paris at the commencement of his career, and was the guest there of several aristocratic families. In 1881 he was living a very fast life in the French capital, and when his fortune began to slip away from him he organized a band of brigands, the principal officers of which were his coachmen, his valets and some monjiks on his own estate. Then he set out for the Kejoff government and commenced to take the castles of the nobles by storm or strategy, according to circumstances. In a short time, after a few skirmishes with the Czar's troops, he found himself and his band surrounded, and nothing seemed left for him but death or surrender. The troops, however, only succeeded in capturing a comparatively small number of the brigands, and their astonishment was great when it was discovered that the chief had escaped. They then remembered that a feeble, white-haired man, bent with age, asking charity of the officers, was permitted to pass through their lines. That bogus old beggar was Kroukowski. Two years slipped by and nothing more was heard of him until suddenly he ap-

peared at the head of another band of rob-bers, which he organized and equipped for service in Galicia, where his exploits were recommenced. Of course, he never remained very long in one place, and his movements were singularly rapid. He came upon a community like a blizzard and his boldness knew no bounds. At Loustsk and Doubno it was shown in the evidence that he often used to walk about the streets and firt with the ladies; but every time that the po-lice got wind of his presence the search for him proved fruitless. One night, however. the authorities became aware of the fact that the celebrated bandit was in a little inn at the outskirts of the village of Kevertsi. The troops were immediately called out. The place was surrounded and all the doors carefully guarded. Suddenly a Russian officer in full uniform appeared. With an air of authority he asked to see the officer in command of the troops. The latter approached him respectfully, and told him the object of his visit. The handsome officer seemed surprised at first, and then smiled at what he seemed to regard as a hoax. Then he requested the young lieutenant in command to be so good as to give a letter, with which he presented him in the politest manner possible, to his

friend, the chief of police, The lieutenant took the letter, promised to deliver it, and saluted. The fine-looking Russian officer stalked away after having returned the military salute with which the troops honored him. When the lieutenant got back to the village with his men and reported, he handed the chief of police the letter which he had received from his brother officer. The latter opened it and read in French the following:
"Kroukowski, chief of brigands, presents his compliments to the chief of police."

The unfortunate lieutenant lost his rank for allowing himself to be duped. Kroukowski also followed the example of his Italian confreres in making prisoners and demanding a high ransom for them. One of his prisoners was the daughter of a prominent Russian count. The count paid the ransom and got back his daughter, but was soon afterward horrified to learn that she was about to become a mother. He then proposed to the outlaw to marry his daughter, and promised that if he did so and returned to an honest life he would do his utmost to secure his pardon, and would succeed beyond a doubt. But Kroukowski replied that he regretted exceedingly that a previous engagement put it out of his power to comply with the count's request. He was very much in love with another

The authorities then went to work to discover that interesting young lady. They found her, and a watch was placed upon her house, where, at last, after a desperate

fight, Kroukowski was captured. Although his fights and duels were innumerable, there was no evidence to prove that he ever committed a cold-blooded murder. That was about all that could be said of him, except that he was a charitable robber, and his gifts to the poor were princely. As he earned his money easily, he parted with it lightly, and he was a great favorite with the moujiks, to whom he really owed his facilities for fooling the soldiers and the police for so long a time.
But the court sentenced him to penal servitude for life, and his appeal to the Czar has been unanswered. He will be sent to the Island of Sakhaline, in Siberia, where he will be chained to some other convict in the gold mines, from which no prisoner has ever yet escaped.

But the moujiks still have faith in him.

They already regard him as a Chevalier de Monte Cristo, with plenty of hidden treasure, who is sure to come back and share it with them like a gentleman.

## Kentucky's Step Forward.

Minneapolis Tribune. A white Kentuckian has been sentenced to imprisonment for life for murdering colored Kentuckians twenty-two years ago.
The world moves—slowly, perhaps, as to
that portion of it called Kentucky—but it

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LETTERS OLDER THAN SOLOMON. Missives Exchanged 400 Years Before His Father's Birth Dug Up in Egypt.

Washington Star. The Smithsonian Institution has just received information, not yet printed or made public in this country, of the recent discovery at Tell-el-Amaria, in Upper Egypt, of a number of tablets relating to the history of Jerusalem and dating back six hundred years earlier than any records hitherto known. When it is understood that these the King of Jerusalem and the Pharach of Egypt four hundred years before the birth of David, who was the father of Solomon, some notion will be formed of their extreme interest. These letters were written, so Dr. Cyrus Adler told a writer for the Star, about the year 1500 B. C., and cast a great light upon the relations of Egypt at that before Jerusalem was captured by the Jews.

At that Palestine was a federation of independent cities, each of which, like Jerusalem, was governed by a "prefect"— this word meaning literally "king of a city." Nevertheless, these towns paid a tribute to the Pharach, and it was in relation to this tribute that several of the letters found were addressed to the ruler of Egypt by the King of Jerusalem, Abdilaba. In them he tries to explain, with due respect, that he occupies a more independent position than the other prefects, and ought to be treated accordingly. For example, in one missive he says:
"Behold, this city of Jerusalem neither

my father nor my mother has given unto me, but the call of a mighty king." This refers to the ancient custom in Palestine by which rulers were sometimes chosen in consequence of a supposed divine

call and without any reference to hereditary law. Having been summoned to his throne by the Deity, Abdi-Taba argued that he should be treated more leniently with regard to tribute. In another of the letters he says: "Behold, neither my father nor my mother has appointed me to this place, but the mighty King has made me enter into the

house of my fathers." That the "mighty King" spoken of was the Deity is proved by the fact that to him as authority is referred an oracle inscribed upon another tablet, which says that: "As long as a ship sails upon the sea, so long will Mesopotamia and Babylonia conquer." The chief aim of the three other letters

written by Abdi-Taba is to ask the Pharach for military aid against the foreign conquerors invading Palestine, and es-pecially the district of Jerusalem. These warlike strangers he calls people of Habiri
—in other words, they were Hebrews. It
seems hardly probable that the Hebrews
as a nation should have invaded Palestine at so early a date, and so it is likely that these were some advanced tribes of Israel which settled down west of the Jordan, and made incursions from time to time. In one of the letters on this subject Abdi-Taba

"The Habiri people are conquering the cities of the king"—i. e., the cities tributary to the Pharaoh—"therefore the King may turn his face to his subjects and send troops. If the troops arive this year the countries of the King, my Lord, may be saved, but if no troops arrive the countries of the King, my Lord, will exist no longer."

This tremendous "find" at Tell-el-Amaria includes 200 tablets, largely of Babylonian cuneiform script, which is thus discovered for the first time to have been in use at so early a period in Egypt and Palestine. about the same date from prefects of other cities of Palestine to the Pharaoh. Some of the inscriptions are in an unknown language, which no one has so far been able to translate. It is funny to think that Solo-mon himself would have looked upon these

### tablets as remote antiquities. TALKED WITH A GHOST.

Uneasy Spirit Wanted Its Jaw-Bone Buried with the Rest of the Body.

Lynn (Mass.) Special The city is talking of the strange experience of George Bettenhausen, the cigar manufacturer on Monroe street. During the latter part of last week John Hays, on crossing the tracks of the Boston & Maine railroad at the depot, was ground to pieces under the Portland express. So badly were his remains mangled that pieces of bones were found alongside the track for some distance. The spectators made haste to pick these gory splinters up as relics. The police raided the crowd and recovered all the pieces save a piece of the lower jaw-bone, containing five teeth. This, it seems, had been picked up by George Carpenter, of the Boyden House. He showed it to Mr. Bettenhausen, who volunteered to clean it, not knowing where it came from. The bone was placed in a box on the shelf in the office to wait for Sunday, when he would have time to attend to it. Last night, after the workmen had gone, Mr. Bettenhausen remained in the office until 8 at work on his books. He then began to close up, and had fastened all the doors but the side one, at which he stood, when the sound of a cough attracted his attention to his office. There in the light sat a stranger in a chair, with a slouch hat pulled down over his face. How he got there startled Mr. Bettenhausen, but he boldly asked, "What do vou want?"

if you have it buried with the remainder of my body, or I can't be comfortable."

Mr. Bettenhausen was more than startled this time, but, thinking it was a practical joke, he stepped to his safe, on which lay his pistol, and jumped for the office door. The office had only this one exit and no one approached it, but when he stood on the portal the figure was gone. This was too much for the old gentleman. He hurriedly locked up, leaving his lights burning, and went home. The police notified him later that his office was all lit up, but he said it was all right. Yesterday he returned Mr. Carpenter his bone, saying he had changed his mind. The story got abroad and yesterday afternoon the coroner demanded the relic of Mr. Carpenter, who gave it up, and it will be placed in the grave of Hays. Mr. Bettenhausen will write a full description of the affair for the Boston Society for Psychical Research by

In muffled tones the stranger replied;

miss it considerably, and would be obliged

"You have on the shelf my jaw-bone.

Senator Brice's Residence.

I hear a pretty direct rumor that Colonel Calvin S. Brice will not be allowed to take his seat in the Senate without a contest by Ohio Republicans on the constitutional ground that he was not a resident of the Buckeye State when elected. That Colonel Brice has anticipated that such a contest would be made I have had several intimations lately from members of the Democratic national committee, who are in close contact with him. I am told that the census enumeration will be relied upon to corroborate the assertion that he lives in New York instead of Ohio. Of course, the census

enumeration is not proof of residence. But it is corroborative evidence. Colonel Brice was enumerated in New York on June 6. The enumerator was able to secure accurate information concerning his entire family and household to the minutest particulars, including the ownership of the house in which he was living and the mortgage on it. On the following day he was enumerated also in Lima, O., but as there are no such particulars connected with the Lima enumeration it is fair to presume that the New York enumerator se-cured the official enumeration. If Colonel Brice's seat is contested on the ground stated it will be the most momentous contest of a seat in the Senate in half a cent-

THE SOCIALISTIC KING.

A Persian Story Which the German Emperor Probably Has Not Read.

One of the earliest social reform movements was started by a great Persian philosopher a couple of thousands years ago. The King of Persia became interested in the matter and conferred with the philosopher. The philosopher, he found, taught that the nobles and the common people were built out of the same material and were entitled to the same blessings, and the artificial dif-ferences that had been made between them as to land, money and privileges ought to

The King was highly pleased with this philosophy. The principal thorns in the side of his government were the nobles, who were always kicking about something, were never satisfied with their honors and emoluments and were taking up all his time with complaints and petitions for more boodle. The socialistic philosopher proposed to level 'em with the rest of his subects, and that suited him exactly.

The King therefore openly espoused the cause of the philosopher, announced him-self a Socialist and began to sound the hewgag of reform.

Everything went along swimmingly for a few months and Persia was almost converted to socialism when some fellow whis-pered to the King that the philosopher was quietly spreading around the information that under the teachings of socialism the King himself wasn't any better than other people, and, in time, would have to come off his throne and participate at the com-mon table and be just like the rest of them.

The King was scared out of a year's growth by this information, and sent a policeman out for the philosopher at once. Sternly questioning him, he elicited the confession that it was indeed true that the principles of socialism, as understood by the teacher, involved his Majesty as well as everybody else. The King immediately cut off the head of the philosopher and closed up the socialism business at once.

It is possible that the young Emperor of Germany has never read this chapter of Persian history. He avows himself a sort of Socialist, and claims that he is inaugurating reforms now, voluntarily, that he would be obliged to permit twenty years hence, and takes credit for his foresight. It has not yet dawned upon him that social-ism must eventually abolish him and all other emperors when it gets a good hold and is sufficiently understood.

PREHISTORIC SMELTING. Method by Which an Extinct Race Reduced

Refractory Ores.

Albuquerque Special to St. Louis Globe-Democrat. At present a government commission from the Interior Department to investigate recently-discovered ancient smelter excites not little interest among miners and prospectors. True, old mines have, from time to time, been discovered near this city, but by what process the precious metals were extracted from the ores by the primitive inhabitants have not heretofore been known. It is certain that their process and ours was not identical. Now and then stories of the discovery of prehistoric process. smelters have not been authenticated.
About two years ago C. M. Wilson discovered an old smelter which had been fired, and showed some of the slag, but it was so different to the ordinary smelter's slag that no attention was paid to it, especially as the ore found in the vicinity in which it was discovered was refractory. On yesterday the commis-sion, outfitted with all the paraphernalia used in assaying metal, visited the home of C. M. Wilson, the owner of the Old Montezuma mine, near this city, where one of these ancient emelters was found. This smelter had never been fired, but was in the condition in which it was left by its builders when some great catastrophe overtook them, and it was believed that its opening would lead to the solution of the method by which the prehistoric people of America were able to separate metals by an unknown process. This smelter was not more than three feet square, but was so arranged internally that heat could be evenly distributed to every part by system of pipes, an accurate diagram of which has been made. It is apparent that by a process believed to be on the eve of disclosure the refractory metals were made to furnish the flux, after which they, in the shape of fumes, were discharged. On opening this furnace it was found to have been to some extent looted, without doubt by the guard who had been standing sentinel over the precious find for several weeks, which he accomplished by a tunnel, by which the principal part of the ore had been extracted, but had left the mechanism of the smelter intact. It is confidently believed by those who opened the smelter that the secret is discovered, or at least its key, but the commission will not divulge until its official report. Should it prove

industry of the Southwest. Kansas Eccentricities,

Kansas City Journal. Judge Balderson, of Wichita, who induced an obstinate jury to agree by having an evangelist hold revival services in the jury-room, has obtained a notoriety second only to that of the recently-elected Kansas judge who has been sent by the people who elected him to the Michigan law school to get a legal education in six months.

favorable, it will revolutionize the mining

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria."